

Abstract of the Invention

A tibial trial assembly for evaluating the stability and kinematics of a tibial implant, particularly a mobile bearing implant, prior to committing to the final preparation of the proximal tibia is described. The tibial trial assembly includes a trial tray adapted to be secured onto a resected proximal end of a patient's tibia. An evaluation bullet is adapted to removably fit into a configured recess in the trial tray. Alternatively, it is possible that the evaluation bullet is made integral with the trial tray. A trunnion on the evaluation bullet accepts a recess in a corresponding articular tibial insert trial. The tibial insert trial is thus received on the trunnion. In this manner, a surgeon may evaluate the stability and kinematics prior to committing to the use of the final tibial implant design. In one form, the evaluation bullet allows the tibial insert trial to move, such as rotate, thereon for checking a mobile bearing implant. This evaluation bullet is temporarily fixed to the resected tibia portion, preferably via spikes. In another form, the evaluation bullet does not allow the tibial insert trial to rotate for checking a fixed bearing implant. Preferably, the evaluation bullet is removable from the trial tray such that the remaining assembly is used to locate and guide (orient) the instrument(s) that prepare the tibia for the final implant. Typically, this includes broaching, drilling, or punching through the opening in the trial tray/plate.